(viii) Evaluation of methods for rehabilitation of surface and sub-surface water resource structures.

Linking of North-Eastern Brahmaputra river with Farakka

761. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a feasibility study regarding linking of North-Eastern Brahmaputra river with Farakka in West Bengal *via*-Bangladesh;

(b) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard because this will be a short route for linking the above river; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Water Commission in 1982 had prepared a Feasibility Report on Jogighopa Barrage and Brahmaputra-Ganga Link Canal Project flowing through Bangladesh by gravity, as the first phase of development/augmentation of the flows of the Ganga during dry season by diversion of Brahmaputra waters to the Ganga. The second phase of the proposal envisages creation of backup storages by construction of two dams on major northern tributaries of the Brahmaputra river, *viz.*, Dihang and Subansiri. The proposal was placed before the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. However, due to reservations expressed by the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, the proposal was not pursued further.

Improvement of water supply in Northern India

762. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the major States in Northern India are likely to face a gruelling shortage of water during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the short-term and long term measures proposal to be adopted to improve the water supply in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) In view of the low storages as available on 14.2.2003 in many of the important reservoirs located in the Northern India including Rajasthan, being monitored by Central Water Commission, and also the fact that the rainfall distribution has either been deficient or scanty in many of these States in the post monsoon period upto 31.12.2002, shortage of water is apprehended. The overall position during the current year, however shall depend on the meteorological events during the year especially during the monsoon period.

(c) In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Government out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The State Governments have however been advised to make judicious use of water available in the reservoirs, giving priority to drinking water supply. States have also been advised to take over the exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Boards (CGWB) for enhancing their water supply. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate the creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Managment Programme, artifical recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments

and other implementing agencies. For meeting future requirements of the water, as a long term measures, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking *inter-alia* of Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.

Meeting of Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on Almatti water

763. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Chief Ministers have decided to take on Almatti water;

(b) if so, whether the request of the Andhra Pradesh for release of 37 tmc. ft. of water from Almatti dam has been considered by the Karnataka Government;

(c) if so, to what extent talks have been fruitful;

(d) whether any concrete plan in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) if so, to what extent they are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) In view of the acute shortage of rainfall and very little inflows into the Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka during September, 2002 to release 45 thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) of water from Almatti Reservoir to meet the drinking water requirements of people in Andhra Pradesh who depend on Krishna for drinking water. He again requested during December, 2002 to release 30 TMC of water from Almatti Reservoir to Andhra Pradesh for the same purpose. A high level